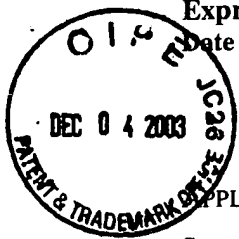


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(S): Kekuda et al.

SERIAL NO.: 10/037,417

EXAMINER: James Martinell

FILING DATE: January 4, 2002

ART UNIT: 1631

FOR: PROTEINS AND NUCLEIC ACIDS ENCODING SAME

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

In response to the Restriction Requirement mailed November 4, 2003, Applicants submit a preliminary amendment to cancel claims drawn to non-elected subject matter and so the claims correspond with the elected species of the nucleic acid molecule of SEQ ID NO:45 which encodes the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:46.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.